



INDEXA

Helping to Make DX Happen Since 1983

Fall 2024

www.indexa.org

Issue 143

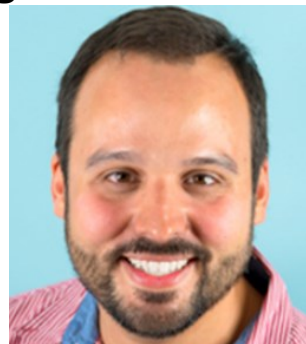
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship

INDEXA

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Message from the President



Dear INDEXA Members,

Hope you all had a great summer and were able to enjoy the good weather and the good friends. October 1 marks the beginning of the fiscal year for INDEXA. I would like to welcome our two new directors, Paul N6PSE and Neil VA7DX. Both directors have ample experience with regards to DX and I am sure that they will bring valuable input to our organization. Also not to mention they both live in the west coast of North America providing us with more diverse geography coverage among our board members.

I would also like to thank both Lou N2TU and Dick W3OA for their years of service to our board. Lou had been Chairman of the Board for the last couple of years and Dick also served as Secretary-Treasurer in past years as well. I am sure that with their new "Retirement"; they will be able to enjoy good propagation and good DX.

With the new board constituted, Board members elected Adrian KO8SCA as the new chairman of the board. He will now be part of the executive board in making decisions and running the organization. I welcome Adrian and I am sure he would be able to contribute a lot even while being away is some random DXpedition, though he spends the majority of his time away on a DXpedition.

We recently split the Secretary and Treasurer position and now we have 5 members at the Executive level. Now, at an uneven number, we will be able to make decision making sure that there is never a tie. This will mainstream our processes and be more efficient. Our Board Director Ralph, K0IR stepped up to the plate and will be serving as secretary.

We recently have been supporting many DXpeditions. Among them the current C21MM from Nauru that is on the air at this moment. Also we have 3D2Y from Rotuma that is coming online shortly this month. This DXpedition has a lot of youth involvement with youngsters participating physically on island while others running the remote radios from home. We will also be sponsoring VK9CV and Sierra Leone 9L that both are also happening in November. For 2025 we have already committed to sponsoring Marshall Islands V7, VK9C Cocos Keeling Island, VK9XU Christmas Island and Andaman Island VU4 all happening in February and March 2025 timeframe. We also are sponsoring the Peter 1 DXpedition for 2027.

As we move into the fall and the Contesting / DXpedition season begins, there is plenty of new activity on the air. We can only do this thanks to the generosity of our members. It is with your support and generosity that we can make these hard and expensive DXpeditions a reality.

73 and gud DX
Otis

INDEXA “Next Generation Fund” Update by Hal, W8HC, INDEXA Treasurer

We continue to see growing support for our new “Next Generation” fund established earlier this year following the passing of Bob Allphin, K4UEE (SK). As we've mentioned before, Bob Allphin was a legend in the DX community.... as a CQ DX Hall of Famer and loyal member and officer of INDEXA for many years. Bob was committed in his support of INDEXA not only during his lifetime, but also after his departure as he had made the decision to be a “Heritage” Class Donor making a provision in his estate (will) to leave INDEXA with a legacy gift that will continue to serve the interests of our organization, our membership and DXing in particular long after his passing.



With Bob's “Heritage” bequest, as well as other monies sent to INDEXA as a memorial tribute at the request of the Allphin family and his Bob's wife Mary, the INDEXA Board of Directors established a “youth” fund, subsequently named the “Next Generation Fund.” We are hopeful that that we can grow this fund through support of interested INDEXA members such as you, much like we have the INDEXA “Hams with Hearts” Humanitarian Fund. Our wish is that this fund will be used to support the Next Generation of DXpeditioners, ultimately the future of our hobby.

It should also be noted that Bob was very active with his local DX Club in Atlanta– the Southeastern DX Club (SEDXC). Recently, their membership entered into a partnership with INDEXA whereby, “Next Generation” donations to INDEXA made by SEDXC members will also result in a matching “gift” from SEDXC. “Thank you” to SEDXC for their support of the Next Generation Fund and their ongoing tribute to K4UEE.

If you are interested in knowing more about INDEXA's “Heritage” Donor class, please take a moment to review the website: <https://indexa.org/donors.html> or, if you would like to make a directed donation to our “Next Generation Fund” you can send your donation via PayPal to: treasurer@indexa.org or, you may send your check payable to: INDEXA, 2309 Lincoln Avenue, Saint Albans, WV 25177 USA.

Donations can also be made from the INDEXA website at: <https://indexa.org/application.html> or you can donate directly to our PayPal account at: treasurer@indexa.org

At this time would like to acknowledge and thank the following, most recent donors to the Bob Allphin, K4UEE Memorial in support of the “Next Generation Fund”:

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN
John Tramontanis, N4TOL
Bill Atherton

Greg Wilson, N4CC
Richard Sweeley, W4AVV

Wey Walker, K8EAB
Joel Levine, WA4HNL

In Memory of Charles Pennington, K4GK (SK) on behalf of SEDXC
and Charles' sister Janet P. Ferguson

Thank You!

TX7W – Austral Islands DXpedition -Trip Report-



Operators: K5WE – Jeff Martin / W5CCP – Craig Boyer

Our journey to Raivavae, Austral Islands began from Tulsa, Oklahoma in the early morning of Sunday April 14, 2024. We flew from Tulsa to Houston to San Francisco and then on to Papette, Tahiti, French Polynesia, arriving late Sunday evening local time. We spent one night in Papette, and then flew approximately 500 more miles on Tahiti Air to the Austral Islands, first stopping at Tubuai, and then finally arriving at Raivavae in the late afternoon on Monday the 15th. Our host, Dennis, met us at the airport and we loaded our 14 bags of luggage into his truck for the 30 minute drive to Pension Raivavae Tama, a small bed-and-breakfast Inn located in the village of Anatonu on the north shore of the island. We arrived at the resort on Monday April 15 at about 5:30PM local time. That evening we began unloading and setup of radios and computers. Antenna work would have to wait until the next morning.

The Austral Islands are the southernmost group of islands in French Polynesia. The Australs, along with the Marquesas Islands, are considered separate DXCC entities due to their distance from the parent island of Tahiti. At the time of this DXpedition, the Austral Islands was ranked # 57 on the Clublog Most Wanted List.



On Tuesday the 16th we installed the Hexbeam and the DX Commander Vertical. The DX Commander had wire vertical antennas for 40, 30, 20, & 17 meters. Late Tuesday morning at 21:40Z, we made our first QSO with W6WDS on 10 meter FT8.

On Wednesday the 17th we installed the Crank-IR Vertical and the Buckmaster OCF Dipole which covered the 80, 40, 20, 17, 12, 10, & 6 meter bands. Our bungalows faced north, right on the beach. We ran the OCF dipole right along the beach, running East-West. It worked well for about a week. On Thursday and Friday we worked on installing the 160 meter antenna, first as a spiral wound vertical on a Spider pole mast. We never could get it to work. We tore it apart and tried it as an inverted V and still had trouble getting it to work. After spending several hours on 2 days in the tropical sun working on the 160 antenna we gave up on it. We would later use some of the wire to build a 10 meter dipole...

While working on the 160 antenna, I was stung on the hand by a red wasp. It was quite painful. It began swelling immediately. My young grandsons like to dress up and play in their super hero costumes. One of them especially likes the Incredible Hulk. I told them my hand looked like the padded incredible hulk hand of his costume. It was swollen for a couple of days, but by the third day was about back to normal...

(Continued on Page 4...)



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Saturday April 20th was the first day of no antenna work. The WX had been hot all week. Saturday evening and night we had rain and thunderstorms.

Sunday morning I went outside to find the Crank-IR in pieces, laying across the street and in the yard. A guy rope had broken in the storm. We borrowed a hacksaw and cut off some damaged fiberglass pieces, then rebuilt and reinstalled the Crank-IR.

After the Saturday night storm, the weather turned cooler. It was cool, very pleasant, with a nice breeze every day until we left. It was hot again when we got back to the island of Tahiti.

We had band pass filters and stubs for most bands. They helped the inter-station interference a lot. When running FT8 or FT4 all stations would transmit on the first sequence, allowing us to have as many as 4 stations on the air at the same time, on different bands. Radios were a K3s, a Yaesu FT991d, and two Yaesu FT710 transceivers, all with 500 watt amplifiers. However, we found we had to limit output to about 200 watts or less per station to keep from tripping the AC breaker at the store across the street which fed our bungalows. Several times day & night we had to trek across the road to reset the tripped breaker...



On Monday Apr 22 we operated CW all day, putting about 1350 QSOs in the log. Craig & I both prefer CW. We also tried to get on SSB for several sessions, but these days if you want to make a lot of QSOs you have to work digital. Putting QSOs in the log was our priority...

On Tuesday Apr 23 we took a tour of the island. The road around the island is only about 15 miles long. Raivavae's population is about 950 people. Our host, Dennis, an American who came to Raivavae many years ago, said only about 2000 tourists visit the island annually. It's pretty isolated. There was a small grocery store across the road from our bungalows, the airport terminal building, some churches, a few government buildings, one restaurant, and homes scattered along the road around the island. There is no gas station on the island. They import gasoline and diesel fuel in 55 gallon drums, shipped from Tahiti.

On Thursday Apr 25 we installed the driven element of a 2 element VDA - Vertical Dipole Array for 12 meters. The following day I installed the reflector element. This antenna consists of an aluminum tubing vertical dipole with a center feed point and a second slightly longer vertical dipole set 5.5 feet behind the driven element as a parasitic reflector. The antenna was pointed NE towards NA and EU. It was located about 15 feet from the water. It was one of our most effective antennas.

We had more than our share of antenna problems. High SWR on the OCF dipole began after the storm. We tried cleaning the connections, no help. SWR became so high on all bands it was un-usable.



On the Hexbeam, the 15 meter wire element came loose. One of the insulator grommets had broken. We lowered the Hexbeam to fix. We discovered the 15 meter wire welded into the adjoining 12 meter wire. We repaired it and raised the Hexbeam back into position.

After about a week, we began showing high SWR on the 4 bands covered by the DX Commander. Following some troubleshooting, we removed all but the 40 meter radiator element. So, we ended up with a 40 meter wire vertical, a 10 meter dipole, the 2 element 12m VDA, the Crank-IR, and the Hexbeam...

Wednesday May 1st was our departure day from Raivavae. Our Tahiti Air flight for Papette left about 9AM, arriving a few hours later. We rented a small van which was packed full with our luggage. We spent Wednesday night at the Airport Motel. Our overnight flight to San Francisco did not leave until 10PM so we drove around touring the island of Tahiti during the day Thursday.



(Continued on Page 5...)

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Here are some operating statistics of the TX7W DXpedition:

TX7W QSOs by Continent

Continent	Total QSOs	%
Africa	213	0.4
Asia	16297	29.2
Europe	17669	31.7
North America	18666	33.5
Oceania	1393	2.5
South America	1487	2.7
Totals	55725	

TX7W Band/Mode QSOs

Band	FT8	CW	FT4	SSB	Total	%
80	13	0	0	0	13	0.0%
60	499	0	0	0	499	0.9%
40	2794	182	798	0	3774	6.8%
30	4574	316	1621	0	6511	11.7%
20	5057	532	2529	453	8571	15.4%
17	4775	507	2246	526	8054	14.5%
15	4545	1295	2979	534	9353	16.8%
12	6324	969	2143	1043	10479	18.8%
10	5079	1426	1140	826	8471	15.2%
Totals	33660	5227	13456	3382	55725	



We had set a goal of 40,000 QSOs. We exceeded that number with a total of over 55,000 after removing some dupes. We also wanted to see if we could put 4 stations on the air with two operators. We did have 4 stations on at times, at reduced power. We also desired a good distribution of QSOs to the 3 major population centers, NA, EU, and AS. That was accomplished.

For more info about the TX7W DXpedition see our website at: k5we.com/tx7w.

I'd like to thank all our corporate, club, and individual sponsors. Your support was fantastic and of great benefit to the DXpedition. Our sincere thanks to DX Engineering, Tennadyne, Cubex Quads, Oklahoma DX Association, Jake McClain Driver ARC, European DX Foundation, Mediterraneo DX Club, East Tennessee DX Association, Carolina DX Association, LA DX Group, Danish DX Group, Twin City DX Association, Clipperton DX Club, Willamette Valley DX Club, International DX Association, Chiltern DX Club, German DX Foundation, OHDXF Finland, Swiss DX Foundation, Kansas City DX Club, Northeast Wisconsin DX Association and all the individual donors for your generous support. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by Jeff & Craig...

Also thanks to all the Deserving DXers out there who worked us. I hope we put on a good show. CU from the next one...

73 de Jeff – K5WE

TX7W Austral Islands DXpedition

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	7,528	18.69	
80M	34,306	13.63	
60M	13,189	24.86	
40M	139,358	21.53	
30M	70,416	55.52	
20M	192,808	35.74	
17M	80,636	68.66	
15M	136,440	61.23	
12M	121,543	71.14	
10M	277,964	69.74	
6M	78,033	75.19	
4M	7	14.29	
2M	20,775	0.50	

Club Log DX Report

Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
5.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
6.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
7.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
8.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
9.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
10.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	62.67	739,095	
CW	15.01	177,042	
FT4	11.20	132,068	
SSB	9.91	116,836	
MFSK	0.38	4,529	
RTTY	0.27	3,225	
FM	0.20	2,368	
PSK	0.12	1,384	
JT65	0.10	1,216	
DYNAMIC	0.03	350	
DIGITALVOICE	0.02	291	
AM	0.01	124	
SSTV	0.01	98	
MSK144	0.01	92	
ROS	0.01	92	
All other	0.05	609	



This report is sent to the [Club Log Google Group](#) every 7 days.

It's also available daily at 14:30Z from <https://clublog.org/dxreport.html>

It contains a summary of band conditions and activity, based on the data that you and other Club Log users have uploaded. If you have any suggestions or feedback on this report, please email Michael G7VJR at michael@g7vjr.org

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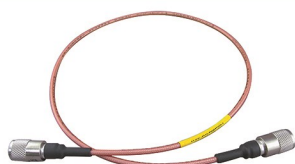
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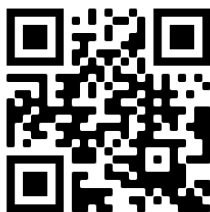
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Membership applications are available at:

www.indexa.org/application.html

From the Editor:

If you have an article that you would like to share with INDEXA please pass along and I will get it in the Winter 2025 Issue.

73,
Steve KI4KWR
KI4KWR@gmail.com